

5

TREATY with IRELAND.

LONDON TAVERN, March 7, 1785.

At a Meeting of Manufacturers from various Parts of this Kingdom.



IT is agreed to submit the following Propositions to the consideration of the manufacturers of Great Britain in general, and they are earnestly requested to give serious and immediate attention thereto, as the prosperity of the nation, and its manufactures, depend on the measures now before parliament, in respect to the forming a commercial treaty with IRELAND.

And another meeting is appointed to be held at this tavern on Thursday next, at one o'clock precisely; at which the company of all manufacturers, interested in this business, is desired, in order to take the matter into farther consideration, and to appoint a committee to attend to the progress of this negotiation.

As it is proposed to adjourn the meeting from time to time, the manufacturers of the following and other towns and places, are requested to appoint delegates to attend it, and to favour it with such communications on this important subject, as they may think will be of service.

Bristol, Birmingham, Colchester, Coventry, Exeter, Glasgow and Paisley, Liverpool, Leicester, Manchester, Norwich, Nottingham, Sheffield, Stourbridge, Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, Wiltshire, Staffordshire and Yorkshire, &c.

Signed, at the request of the meeting,

JOHN WILKINSON.

PROPOSITIONS.

It appears, First, That the British manufacturers are greatly interested in the commercial negotiations with Ireland, now under the consideration of parliament.

II. That the manufacturers of this kingdom ought not to object, and will not object, to any system of fair, equal, and equitable commercial regulations, being adjusted and finally settled between the two kingdoms.

III. That *each specific article, the produce or manufacture of either kingdom, being made subject precisely to the same duty in one country as in the other*, as held forth by the third resolution of the House of Commons of Ireland, on the 7th of February last, is by no means calculated to produce that equality.

IV. That

IV. That in a commercial treaty between two countries, where it shall so happen that the exports, duty free, from the one, consist chiefly of an article of which the other can send very little in return; in order to produce a real equality, this balance against the latter ought to be made up by the admission of such other articles, duty free, as the latter can send to the former.

V. That the Irish linens imported into England, duty free, amount yearly to about £1,400,000, whilst the British linens imported into Ireland do not amount to more than about £30,000; and that other articles, the produce or manufacture of Ireland, are imported, duty free, into England, to the amount of about £700,000; making together upwards of two millions sterling of goods annually imported from Ireland into Britain, duty free, being nine-tenths of the whole exports of Ireland.

VI. That the fair equality does not consist in stating the *specific* articles of one kingdom against those of the other, as *linens against linens*, but in the value or amount of goods imported, duty free, into each kingdom respectively, being the same, or nearly so: and that in order to balance the advantage which Ireland has over England in this respect, either Ireland should admit articles the growth, produce, or manufacture of Great-Britain, duty free, to the amount of two millions yearly, or Great-Britain should *lay a duty upon Irish linens* sufficient to indemnify her for the duty which Ireland has laid, and is to continue, upon British goods of other species.

VII. That the partiality shewn here in favour of Irish linens, by admitting that article duty free, besides giving a bounty on its exportation from England, and at the same time laying a heavy duty upon the same article, the produce of other states, has already rendered those states unfriendly to the admission of British manufactures. And that when the provisions in the 9th resolution of the Irish House of Commons stating, "that the importation of articles from foreign states should be regulated in each kingdom on such terms as may afford an effectual preference to the importation of similar articles, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the other" shall pass into a law here, it will be extremely difficult for this country to negotiate a commercial treaty with any other state in Europe.

VIII. That unless Ireland will agree to pay equal duties with Great Britain on all articles imported from foreign states, and some regulations be adopted respecting those articles which are objects of exportation, and *subject to an excise* in either country, no scheme of equalization can be devised which will not in effect prove highly detrimental to Great Britain.